CIA cleared of role in 1963 Kennedy slaying

JOHN F. KENNEDY
Murdered in Dallas

By THOMAS O'TOOLE
Special to The Star

WASHINGTON — The Rockefeller Commission rejected all hints and suspicions that the Central Intelligence Agency or any of its agents had anything to do with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

"Numerous allegations have been made that the CIA participated in the assassination," the commission said at the end of an 18-page examination of the allegations. "On the basis of the staff's investigation, the commission concluded there was no credible evidence of any CIA involvement."

Taking the allegations one by one, the commission rejected the suggestions that Watergate burglars Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis were CIA employees at the time of the assassination and that they were in Dallas together on the same day.

Oswald was found by the Warren Commission, which probed the assassination and its aftermath, to have acted alone in killing Kennedy. Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner, killed Oswald while he was in police custody.

The Rockefeller Commission went point-by-point through an allegation that Kennedy had been shot both from behind and from in front, declaring like the Warren Commission before it that the president was killed by two bullets fired from the rear by a single gun.

Responding to suggestions that Kennedy's head and body movements when he was shot indicated that he was hit by a bullet from the rear and then by a bullet from in front, the Rockefeller inquiry disclosed that it had assembled a new panel of five experts to restudy motion pictures, autopsy photographs and X-rays and bullet fragments.

Separately and unanimously, the five doctors on the panel said the violent backward and leftward motion of the president's upper body was not caused by the impact of a bullet coming from anywhere in front of him.

Three of the doctors said that such a motion was caused by a violent straightening and stiffening of the body "as a result of a seizure-like neuromuscular reaction to major damage inflicted to nerve centres in the brain."

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
"Sole assassin"